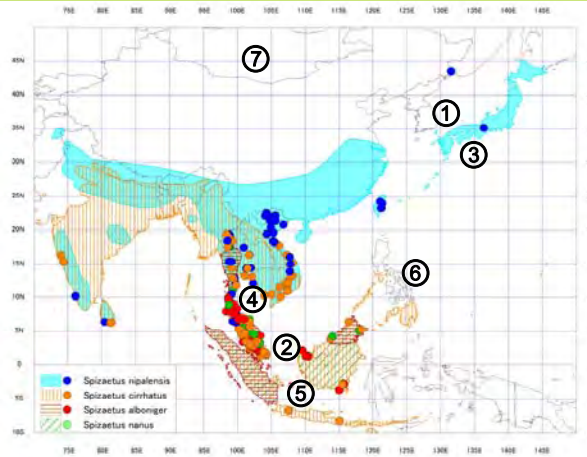


Countries in this Newsletter



Spizaetus alboniger

- ① Korea
- ② Malaysia
- ③ Japan
- ④ Thailand
- ⑤ Indonesia
- ⑥ Philippines
- ⑦ Mongolia



Distribution Map of Genus Spizaetus

(Spizaetus Distribution Map and Habitat Analysis Project)

① Raptor Project in Korea

First Breeding of the Oriental Honey Buzzard in Korea

Oriental Honey Buzzards (*Pernis ptilorhynchus*) are generally regarded as common passage migrants in Korea. It has been suggested that the raptor may breed in Gyeonggi and Gangwon Provinces according to the repeated observations during breeding season, but there was no confirmed evidence of nesting. On 16 August 2009, one juvenile of the Oriental Honey Buzzard on a nest was observed with two adults by Mr. Hae-Jin Cho (a researcher of the Korea Institute of Environmental Ecology and a PhD student of Chonbuk National University; eagleowl@paran.com) and his colleagues at a forest of Japanese Larches (*Larix kaempferi*) in Bukbang-myeon (N 37° 43', E 127° 46'), Hongcheon-gun, Gangwon Province. This observation was recently reported in the Korean Journal of Ornithology (Cho *et al.* 2010. *Kor. J. Orni.* 17(1): 139-141), and this is the first record of an active nest of the Oriental Honey Buzzard from the Republic of Korea.

< Chang-Yong CHOI : subbuteo@hanmail.net >



The observed nest of Oriental Honey Buzzards *Pernis ptilorhynchus* in Hongcheon, Korea (Photo by Mr. Hee-Chul Woo)

② Raptor Project in MALAYSIA

Autumn raptor migration monitoring at Taiping, Peninsular Malaysia

In 2009, Raptor Study Group of Malaysian Nature Society carried out a full season count of autumn raptor migration at Taiping (N 4° 52', E100° 44'), a well-known migration watch site on the west coast of Peninsular Malaysia. Volunteers recorded some 52,554 raptors of 13 species over 59 days from September 15 to November 20, 2009. Black Baza (*Aviceda leuphotes*), Chinese Sparrowhawk (*Accipiter soloensis*) and Oriental Honey-buzzard (*Pernis ptilorhynchus*) made up more than 95 % of the total number of raptors counted. In addition to the count, a public raptor watch was also held at nearby Scott's Hill on 25 October. The Taiping project was made possible by the financial support of Exxon mobile Employee Involvement Program.

< Lim Kim Chye : keyian@streamyx.com >

International Workshop on Raptor Monitoring by Remote Sensing Techniques

The “International Workshop on Raptor Monitoring by Remote Sensing Techniques” was organized by the Remote Sensing Group of Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) in Penang, West Malaysia from 27 – 28 July 2010. Nineteen participants attended the workshop which included the following presentations:

- Application of weather radar to monitor migratory raptors in Taiwan (Prof. Pan Chen-Jeih, National Central University, Taiwan)
- Monitoring migratory raptors using satellite imaging (Prof. Lai Hsin-Chih, Chang Jung Christian University, Taiwan).
- Migratory raptor monitoring in Kenting, Taiwan (Tsai Yi-Rung, Kenting National Park)
- Development of migratory raptor monitoring system using Optical and Image Processing Techniques (Wong Chow Jeng, School of Physics, USM)
- Development of bird monitoring system using Optical and Image Processing Techniques (Poon Wai Kit, School of Physics, USM)
- Introduction to Asian Raptor Research & Conservation Network (Mike Chong, ARRCN representative)
- Introduction to migration and migration research in Malaysia by (Lim Kim Chye, Raptor Study Group MNS)
- Introduction to migration and migration research in Thailand (Lee Oon Teik, on behalf of Thai Raptor Group).
- Introduction to migration and migration research in Singapore (Lim Kim Keang, Bird Group, Nature Society Singapore).
- Some aspects of raptor migration at Tanjung Tuan (Lim Aun Tiah, Raptor Study Group MNS)
- Satellite tracking and wing-tagging of Montagu’s Harrier in Denmark (Anwar Junge, MNS)

< Lim Kim Chye : kcyan@streamyx.com >



Tsai Yi-Rung speaking about raptor migration in Kenting, Taiwan.

ARRCN Borneo Project – East Malaysia

ARRCN recently carried out the Borneo Project with funding from Japan Trust for Global Environment. The Borneo Project aims to promote raptor research and conservation activities in Borneo, including Kalimantan (Indonesia) and Sarawak and Sabah (East Malaysia).

The Borneo Project consisted of workshops and raptor surveys in the two territories. In East Malaysia, the first workshop on “Raptor Research & Conservation Techniques” was held on 13 November 2009 in Kuching, Sarawak. Twenty-five participants from government agencies, universities and Malaysian Nature Society attended. In March 2010, repeat workshops were conducted in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah and again in Kuching, Sarawak.

Four field surveys were undertaken in East Malaysia. In Sarawak, surveys were carried out at Lambir Hills, Kuala Baram, Bario highlands, Kubah, Similajau and Niah national parks, with 13 species of raptors recorded, including two migratory species. In Sabah, the surveys covered the roadside from Sandakan to Tawau, taking in Gomantong, Lahad Datu and Semporna and also from Kota Kinabalu to the Tempasuk plains, up to the Tip of Borneo, with records of 12 species of raptors, including migrating Grey-faced Buzzards.

< Lim Kim Chye : kcyan@streamyx.com >



Raptor nest observation in Sabah, East Malaysia



Migrant Peregrine Falcon in Sabah, East Malaysia

Early Grey-faced Buzzard arrival in western Sarawak, East Malaysia

On 5th August 2010, a single Grey-faced Buzzard (*Butastur indicus*) was observed in Kuching, Sarawak. The Grey-faced Buzzard is a regular winter visitor to Borneo, and small numbers find their way to the western corner of the island each year. They are usually seen in small groups of 3-6 birds, and appear to spend the winter along the coastal habitats, preferring coconut plantations. There is no information from further inland.

This single early arrival was observed on the wooded hill of Bukit Hantu, in the middle of Kuching city. Grey-faced Buzzards are seen each year on this hill, dominated by mature stands of Tembusu (*Fragrea fragrans*) trees and they generally stay till early March.

This sighting is of note because of its early date. It is known that Grey-faced Buzzards arrive in Borneo on two fronts, the eastern route via the Philippines and the western route across the Riau and Natunas islands. Which route this individual has taken is unknown.

<Anthony Sebastian Kuching, Sarawak, MALAYSIA>

③ Raptor Project in Japan

Meeting on raptor migration in western Japan

The meeting on raptor migration was held in Hiroshima prefecture on 30th August 2010. Approximately 25 raptor researchers in western Japan exchanged information about the results of recent raptor migration surveys.

Topics of the meeting are 1) results of the spring raptor migration in Busan and Geoje Island, Korea(collaborative survey between Korea and Japan), 2) results of the spring raptor migration in Northern Kyushu and Hiroshima prefecture, 3) report of the 6th ARRCN symposium in Mongolia, 4) lecture on the identification of raptors belonged in the genus Accipiter.

The future planning about the raptor migration was also discussed and it was decided to make at least 3 presentations in the next ARRCN symposium in Korea in 2012.

< Yasunori NITANI : nitani@mxr.mesh.ne.jp >



Meeting on raptor migration in western Japan

④ Raptor Project in Thailand

Phetchaburi Eagle Day 2009, Phetchaburi, central Thailand. Discovery Thai

Birding Group, Bird Conservation Society of Thailand and Thai Raptor Group assisted the local administration of Nong Plalai sub-district, Khao Yoi district, Phetchaburi to hold the Eagle Day, first of its kind in the country on 15 February 2009. The event was aimed at the local and birders to learn and appreciate the life and importance of wintering *Aquila* eagles as the top predator of the food chain. All four species of *Aquila* eagles including *Aquila clanga*, *A. nipalensis*, *A. heliaca*, and *A. pennata* are annually and regularly observed in winter months, at the vast ricefield of Nong Plalai full of ricefield rats and bandicoots, the eagles' major preys. Exhibitions of eagle photographs showing their foraging behavior and majestic gestures in flight were erected to enhance the public awareness. Local school children were guided to learn about the eagles' natural history through bird watching and talks. Exhibitive signs were raised along the road besides the eagle's foraging fields to educate the public. The event was very welcomed by the local with an impressive enthusiasm by the public. The second Eagle Watch Fest has thus been planned on 15 January 2010.

< Chaiyan Kasorndorkbua : trogon@gmail.com >



2010 TRG Raptor Seminar IV.

This annual raptor lectures were organized by Thai Raptor Group to provide the public and birders current knowledge of raptor species, to make the public aware of the importance of raptors, and to maintain the interest of wild raptors through the raptor watch during autumn migration. Raptor survey techniques were also presented by an ARRCN ISG-receiving TRG member to stimulate interest and enhance participation in survey data collection among university students. The seminar is free to the public. This year seminar was on 5 September. To participate in the International Vulture Awareness Day 2010 on 4 September, information of vultures, their status and conservation actions that have been done in the country were exhibited.

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2010 Chumphon Raptor Watch Fest, Chumphon, southern Thailand.

The Fest is scheduled to be held in early October to meet and greet the hundreds of thousands of migrating raptors that make an annual southward pilgrimage to the tropics using Thailand and Chumphon in particular as the sky highway for the long and arduous journey. This year, the event will happen in two site, one at the usual U-Thapao area, and the other at Khao Dinsor, a recently-discovered site north of U-Thapao where raptorphiles could easily be awed and amazed by the continuous river of raptors streaming one after another throughout day-light. In early October, the prime species will be Chinese Goshawk (*Accipiter soloensis*), Japanese Sparrowhawk (*Accipiter gularis*), Shikra (*Accipiter badius*), Grey-faced Buzzard (*Butastur indicus*), and Oriental Honey Buzzard (*Pernis ptilorhyncus*), with an addition of uncommon species such as Black Kite, Pied & Eastern Marsh Harriers, Osprey, Peregrine Falcon. Later during 23-25 October, a field course about raptor identification and in-flight photography will provide ample opportunity for interested birder and photographers to learn about the topics and earn hands-on experience afield at Khao Dinsor.

< Chaiyan Kasorndorkbua : trogon@gmail.com >



2010 Autumn Raptor Count at Radar Hill, Prachuap Khiri Khan, southern Thailand.

Thai Raptor Group has conducted month-long raptor counts for 3 consecutive years since 2008. This year, a student volunteer will collect the species and number of the migrating raptor species entering the entrance of southern Thailand and southward to their tropical residence for the winter. The count will cover the whole October. The student will work to collect data and to provide basic knowledge about raptor migration to birders and interested sight-seeing tourists who visit the hill that has, in recent years, become known as the hill of hawks, and have been visited by domestic and foreign birders.

< Chaiyan Kasorndorkbua : trogon@gmail.com >



⑤ Raptor Project in Indonesia

Indonesian Raptor Projects (2009-10) reported by Adam A. Supriatna, Zaini Rakhman, Asman AP, Gunawan, Syarnitilia and Wishnu Sukmantoro.

By 2010, several raptor research and conservation events have been held by Indonesian researchers and conservationists joining with Indonesian Raptor Research & Conservation Network (RAIN) or independently. We summarize these relevant events/ projects as follow:

Workshop & Seminar

ARRCN and local members of Malaysia and Indonesia held raptor-workshop in Kuching (Malaysia) and Pontianak (Indonesia) on November 2009. In Indonesia the workshop was collaboratively managed by RAIN and University of Mulawarman and it was aimed to promote raptor research and conservation efforts in the country. The workshop was attended by university students, lecturers and some local NGO members. Lectures of the workshops are ARRCN members.

< Gunawan : gunawan@raptoindonesia.org >

Some Indonesian raptor researchers, on the way to Mongolia Symposium held on 23-27 June 2010, were kindly invited by EWAH Womans University of South Korea to give talk on Indonesian nature conservation issues. A presentation on raptor titled “Status and conservation of raptors in Indonesia” was delivered by Adam A. Supriatna (asianraptor7@gmail.com). The two other talks were on “Conservation management in Indonesia” by Dr. Bambang Supriyanto M.Sc (bambang_halimun@yahoo.com) and “Primate conservation” by Kuswandono (kuswandono@gmail.com).



Gede-Pangrango National Park, in collaboration with RCS and RAIN, hosted a seminar on raptor. The seminar was also attended by ARRCN members joining an ecotour in Java. The seminar should be fruitfully useful to the park management, in particularly, since they have planned to conduct the long term monitoring on the Endangered Javan Hawk-Eagle (*Nisaetus bartelsi*).

< Kuswandono : kuswandono@gmail.com >

Migratory raptor and its related events.

Annual Bird of prey Migration Watch (BMW) was again held by RAIN on October 2010 and similar event was also held in Gadjah Mada University coordinated by Jogja Birdwatcher Community. During the the event, training on raptor conservation was held and participated by new and young raptor enthusiasts. Surprisingly, given quite long distance, some participants from Kalimantan and Papua also joined the event. The training was then ended with a field observation at Puncak, West Java.



< Asman AP : asmanadi@raptorindonesia.org >

Ex-situ

Raptor Sanctuary released two confiscated *Nisaetus bartelsi* and an *Accipiter trivirgatus* – the release individuals had received proper rehabilitation treatment provided by Cikananga Animal Rescue and Raptor Sanctuary. The release was done during August 2009-10 in Tapos near Gede-Pangrango National Park and Loji (Halimun-Salak National Park) from which all individuals originated. Recently, the Sanctuary has also received two Changeable Hawk-Eagles and a Crested Serpent Eagle to be released if those eagles pass necessary examinations of its health and behaviour. In line with it, Muhammed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund has supported RAIN to assess appropriate areas for its release.

< Gunawan : gunawan@raptoindonesia.org >

In-situ and additional notes

Sumatra. Recent notes on raptor of Sumatra island (2010) have been prepared by Muhammad Iqbal (kpbsos26@yahoo.com) and an extended breeding notes of Shikra *Accipiter badius* in Aceh, Sumatra has also been published in *Kukila* by Agus Nurza (2009).

Kalimantan. Survey on migratory raptor was conducted in Ketapang West Kalimantan (March 2010). The survey was held by members of RAIN, Kawan Burung Ketapang and KPSDA Aves Sylva Tanjungpura University. The team surveyed areas of Gunung Palung National Park, Danau Perendaman and Pematang Gadung forest. The objective is to identify some areas known as wintering habitats used by migratory species like Oriental Honey Buzzard (*Pernis ptilorichus orientalis*), Grey-faced Buzzard (*Butastur indicus*) and Chinese Goshawk (*Accipiter soloensis*). < Asman AP : asmanadi@raptorindonesia.org >

Dr. Syartinilia (2010), a lecture of Bogor Agricultural University (IPB), has been pioneering a satellite tracking-based raptor research in Indonesia. The research is in collaboration with Prof. Hiroyoshi Higuchi from the University of Tokyo. A relevant survey will be conducted in South Kalimantan (February 2011) to study the habitat characteristics of Oriental Honey Buzzard in the island, in relation to this migratory phenomenon. < Dr. Syarnitilia : syartinilia@yahoo.com >

Jawa. A survey to study distribution of *Nisaetus bartelsi* in mount Salak West Java was carried out by a team of Raptor Sanctuary, RAIN and Halimun-Salak National Park. A total of 17-26 individuals were found during the survey. Additionally, field works supported by Chevron Geothermal Salak to monitor the occurrence of *Nisaetus bartelsi* was also done along a forest corridor connecting mount Salak and Halimun. <Gunawan : gunawan@raptorindonesia.org >

Raptor based ecotour in Sumatra

WWF Indonesia with financial assistance from WWF Japan has developed ecotourism in Tesso Nilo National Park in which raptor species has been one of the main interests being developed. Much of local tree species called Sialang has been long used by bees to place their nests on which Honey buzzards often swoop down. From a study held recently by WWF Indonesia, among the easy-to-see raptors found in the area are Oriental Honey Buzzard (*Pernis ptilorhynchus*), Crested Serpent Eagle (*Spilornis cheela*), Black Kite (*Milvus migrans*), White Shouldered Kite (*Elanus caeruleus*), Crested Goshawk (*Accipiter trivirgatus*), Japanese Sparrowhawk (*Accipiter gularis*) and Black-thighed Falconet (*Microhierax fringillarius*). < Wishnu Sukmantoro : wishnubio@yahoo.com >

⑥ Raptor Project in Philippine

Report on the 1st Asian Bird Fair & the 6th Philippine Bird Festival

ARRCN recently participated in the 1st Asian Bird Fair & the 6th Philippine Bird Festival on the invitation of the organizers, the Wild Bird Club of the Philippines. The Asian Bird Fair (ABF) is an initiative of the Wild Bird Club of the Philippines, Bird Conservation Society of Thailand, Chinese Wild Bird Federation, Wild Bird Society of Taipei, Malaysian Nature Society and Nature Society of Singapore. The ABF aims to highlight the bird festivals of the participating countries as well as enrich ecotourism through birdwatching. The Philippines was elected to host the 1st ABF and decided to hold this inaugural event together with its own 6th Philippine Bird Festival.

This joint event was held from 23 – 26 September, 2010 in Waterfront Insular Hotel, Davao City, Mindanao, Philippines. On 23 September evening, the Mayor of Davao City, Sarah Duterte hosted the participants to a grand welcome dinner and colourful cultural presentation. The event officially opened on 24 September in the beach garden of the hotel, with various conservation organizations putting up exhibits on their activities, selling souvenirs and running programs for students. ARRCN put up 6 posters on the



Students visiting the ARRCN booth at the 1st Asian Bird Festival

following topics: *What are Raptors, Characteristics of Raptors, Raptor species in the Philippines, Raptors and Humans, Why protect Raptors and Raptor migration in Asia*. There were also lectures and film shows on birding basics, bird photography and birdwatching by Bird Conservation Nepal and Borneo Bird Club, among others.

The program for 25 September, the final day of the event, was basically similar to the previous day except for different lecture topics presented by the Philippine Eagle Foundation, Hornbill Research Foundation and other organisations. ARRCN presented a slide talk on “Raptor migration in Asia, with reference to the Philippines” which resulted in quite a bit of discussion on the migration route of Chinese Sparrowhawks through the Philippines. There was also a forum to discuss conservation strategies in response to continuing threats to birds like hunting, loss of habitats, poaching and climate change. Participants were invited to share their experiences in dealing with these issues in their own countries. In the evening, at the turn-over dinner, Chinese Wild Bird Federation accepted the honour of holding the 2nd ABF in Taiwan in 2011.

On Sunday, 26 September, the participants visited the Philippine Eagle Centre where they were welcomed by its director, Mr Dennis Salvador, an ARRCN Standing Committee member. After a briefing on the work of the centre, participants were taken around to view various captive raptors and to admire and photograph a captive-bred Philippine Eagle. The day ended with an enjoyable Filipino lunch hosted by the Philippine Eagle Foundation.

< Report written by: Lim Kim Chye / ARRCN representative to the 1st Asian Bird Festival >



Discussing the raptor migration routes at the ARRCN booth

⑦ Raptor Project in Mongolia

The 6th ARRCN Symposium in Mongolia

Participants on the 6th ARRCN symposium landed on the Chinggis Khaan International Airport near Ulaanbaatar city in Mongolia after looking at endless glass through the airplane windows. The young Mongolian symposium committee members who are students of Dr. Gombobaatar Sudev (President of the committee) picked us up to the Flower Hotel in Ulaanbaatar city by bus. We are surprised the different views between the glass land around the airport and the modern buildings in the city.

On the previous day (23 of June), the welcome ceremony was held on the Chinggis Khaan Hotel in Ulaanbaatar city. We were enjoyed the talking with old colleagues, traditional music and dances with delicious dinner and our energy liquid (of course, it is BEER!).

On the first day (24 of June), oral presentations and special workshops hosted by the Peregrine Funds were held at the Chinggis Khaan Hotel in Ulaanbaatar city. And, we moved to the Hustai Nuruu National Park in the evening by buses. In the night, we stayed at the Ger (traditional tent) in the National park under a stadium of stars.

On the second day (25 of June), many oral presentations were conducted on 2 large Gers in the National Park. During the coffee break, we could observe many raptors (Golden Eagle, Steppe Eagle, Cinereous Vulture and so on) on the blue sky over the huge glass land. In the night, we enjoyed the beautiful raptor videos produced by Mr. Roger Wang from Taiwan and traditional music by professional musicians.

On the fourth day (26 of June), special workshops hosted by the Peregrine Funds were held in the Ger and outside field. In the afternoon, we visited some nest sites of breeding raptors (Cinereous Vulture, Upland Buzzard, Saker Falcon and so on). In the night, the closing ceremony was held on the glass land. Great symposium was successfully finished with traditional delicious dinner and Chinggis Khaan Vodka!

Young Mongolian symposium committee members who are raptor researchers also participated with the presentations and special workshops. They could gain much knowledge about raptors and contact with many raptor researchers around the world. We hope that they will lead research and conservation of raptors in Mongolia and Asia in the near future.

<ARRCN secretariat: Tatsuyoshi Murate : arrc-n@mwa.biglobe.ne.jp>

Outline of the 6th ARRCN Symposium in Mongolia

Theme: Science and Conservation for Present and Future

Date: 23 – 27 June, 2010

Location: Chinggis Khaan complex in Ulaanbaatar (23-24, June)

Hustai Nuruu National Park (25-27, June)

Organizing committee: Dr. Gombobaatar Sundev (President of the Mongolian Ornithological Society)

Participants: Approximately 150 persons from 23 countries

Presentations: 43 oral and 35 poster presentations

Program of the Special workshop hosted by the Peregrine Fund:

- 1) STUDYING POPULATION ECOLOGY: ASSESSMENT OF PRODUCTIVITY AND SURVIVAL. [Ian Newton]
- 2) THE RAPTOR LITERATURE IN THE 21ST CENTURY. [Lloyd F. Kiff]
- 3) MIGRATION-WATCHSITE COUNTS. [Keith L. Bildstein]
- 4) ROADSIDE SURVEYS. [Keith L. Bildstein]
- 5) INVESTIGATION OF RAPTOR MORBIDITY AND MORTALITY : INTERPRETING FINDINGS ON INDIVIDUAL AND POPULATION SCALES. [Martin Gilbert]
- 6) CRITICAL ELEMENTS FOR EFFECTIVE RAPTOR CONSERVATION. [Rick Watson]
- 7) RAPTOR TRAPPING AND HANDLING TECHNIQUES FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH. [William Heinrich]
- 8) MARKING AND TRACKING METHODS FOR BIRDS OF PREY : WHY DO IT AND WHAT OPTIONS ARE AVAILABLE. [Todd Katzner]
- 9) HIGH FREQUENCY GPS=GSM TELEMETRY FOR STUDY OF MOVEMENT ECOLOGY OF RAPTORS [Todd Katzner]
- 10) WILDLIFE TRACKING WITH ARGOS [Aline Duplaa]

You can take the file of the special workshop from the following address.

http://www.peregrinefund.org/conservate_category.asp?category=Asia-Pacific



ARRCN members

205 individuals
3 organizations
in 29 countries
(December, 2010)



<Asian Raptor Research and Conservation Network WebSite>

<http://www5b.biglobe.ne.jp/~raptor/index.htm>